

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-10 IO-13
L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 /089 W
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R 101002Z MAR 78
FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2678
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0120

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: MARCH 9 EASTERN PLENARY STATEMENT

AT THE 163RD PLENARY MEETING OF THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH WAS HELD ON MARCH 9 UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF NETHERLANDS REP (DEVOS), BULGARIAN REP (DICHEV) DELIVERED THE ONLY FORMAL STATEMENT. AT THE OUTSET OF THE MEETING, DEVOS, IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN, DELIVERED A BRIEF EULOGY TO CANADIAN REP (COX) WHO WAS FATALLY INJURED IN A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT ON MARCH 8. ACTING CANADIAN REP (PUDDINGTON) RESPONDED TO THESE REMARKS WITH A SHORT STATEMENT. IN HIS PRESENTATION, DICHEV CALLED FOR THE WEST TO ACCEPT EQUAL PERCENTAGE REDUCTIONS TO PRESERVE THE EXISTING APPROXIMATE EQUALITY OF FORCES BETWEEN
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EAST AND WEST IN CENTRAL EUROPE. HE ALSO ACCUSED THE WEST OF ADOPTING AN UNCONSTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD THE EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL BECAUSE OF PRIOR WESTERN PLANS TO INCREASE MANPOWER AND ARMAMENTS IN THE AREA AND TO INTRODUCE NEW WEAPONS SUCH AS THE NEUTRON BOMB. THE MAIN POINTS OF THE BULGARIAN STATEMENT, THE FULL TEXT OF WHICH FOLLOWS BY AIRGRAM, WERE:

1) SINCE TANGIBLE STEPS TOWARD PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE NOT IN EVIDENCE, IT IS WELL TO EXAMINE WHAT ARE THE OBSTACLES TO PROGRESS AND WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FAILURE TO WORK OUT A FIRST AGREEMENT.

2) AN UNCONTROLLED ARMS RACE BASED ON THE ACTION-REACTION CYCLE CAN BE AVOIDED IF BOTH SIDES WILL MOVE TOWARD AGREEMENT BASING THEMSELVES ON THE EXISTING EQUALITY OF FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE AND ON THE PRINCIPLES OF EQUALITY, MUTUALITY OF OBLIGATIONS AND UNDIMINISHED SECURITY.

3) THE WEST SHOULD RESPOND CONSTRUCTIVELY TO EASTERN PROPOSALS, INCLUDING THE COMPROMISE MEASURES INTRODUCED BY THE EAST, IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FOR MILITARY AS WELL AS POLITICAL DETENTE IN EUROPE.

4) THE EAST HAS PROPOSED EQUAL QUANTITY AND EQUAL PERCENTAGE REDUCTIONS OF ARMED FORCES AND ARMAMENTS WHICH, CONTRARY TO WESTERN CONTENTIONS, WOULD BE OF GREAT MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE WHILE THE WEST HAS YET TO STATE THE EXTENT TO WHICH INDIVIDUAL WESTERN PARTICIPANTS WOULD REDUCE THEIR FORCES AND ARMAMENTS.

5) EASTERN PARTICIPANTS SEEK PROGRESS ON THE BASIS
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THAT NO SIDE ACHIEVES UNILATERAL MILITARY ADVANTAGES OR DIMINISHES THE SECURITY OF THE OTHER SIDE AND THAT THE EXISTING APPROXIMATE EQUALITY OF FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE IS PRESERVED.

6) THE WEST STILL SEEKS TO JUSTIFY ITS ARTIFICIAL CONCEPT OF THE EXISTENCE OF FORCE DISPARITIES FAVORING THE EAST DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE DATA EXCHANGE HAS NOT DISPROVEN THE EXISTENCE OF A ROUGH EQUALITY IN THE NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF THE FORCES OF BOTH GROUPS IN CENTRAL EUROPE.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0120

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7) THE WEST HAS ADOPTED AN UNCONSTRUCTIVE POSITION TOWARD THE EASTERN INTERIM FREEZE PROPOSAL BECAUSE IT HAD EARLIER PLANNED A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN ITS MILITARY MANPOWER IN THE AREA AS WELL AS ARMAMENT INCREASES, INCLUDING THE NEUTRON BOMB.

8) EAST AND WEST DIFFER OVER THE QUESTION OF HOW REDUCTIONS SHOULD BE MADE WITH THE WEST, AS IN AMBASSADOR DEVOS' FEBRUARY 16 PLENARY STATEMENT, CLAIMING THAT THE EASTERN APPROACH IGNORES THE IMPORTANCE OF THE OUTCOME WHICH WOULD RESULT FROM REDUCTIONS.

9) AMBASSADOR DEVOS CALLED FOR AN OUTCOME OF PARITY.

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10) THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, AS IS DEMONSTRATED BY STATEMENTS OF THEIR POLITICAL LEADERS INCLUDING SOVIET PRESIDENT BREZHNEV ON 2 OCTOBER 1977, HAVE NOT USED THESE NEGOTIATIONS TO SEEK UNILATERAL ADVANTAGES BUT HAVE SOUGHT TO PRESERVE THE EXISTING APPROXIMATE BALANCE OF FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE AT LOWER LEVELS.

11) THEREFORE, THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES FAVOR AN OUTCOME TO REDUCTIONS WHICH WOULD LEAVE AN APPROXIMATE EQUALITY IN THE FORCES OF BOTH SIDES.

12) EQUAL PERCENTAGE REDUCTIONS AS PROPOSED BY THE EAST WOULD ASSURE THAT THE EXISTING FORCE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE INDIVIDUAL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS WOULD NOT BE ALTERED, A MATTER WHICH IS OF CONCERN TO FLANK PARTICIPANTS.

13) THE WEST IS NOT SEEKING AN OUTCOME OF PARITY BUT ONE OF SO-CALLED PARITY WHICH WOULD REQUIRE EASTERN REDUCTIONS ALMOST THREE TIMES GREATER THAN THOSE OF THE WEST.

14) THE WEST HAS NOT AND CANNOT PROVE THAT THERE ARE SIGNIFICANT DISPARITIES FAVORING THE EAST IN THE NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF ARMED FORCES IN THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS.

15) THE WEST SUPPORTS ITS CLAIM OF DISPARITIES BY THEIR OWN PERSONAL INTERPRETATIONS OF PREVIOUS EASTERN STATEMENTS AND ACTIONS.

16) THE WESTERN CLAIM THAT THE EAST DID NOT SERIOUSLY CONTEST THE EXISTENCE OF A DISPARITY FAVORING THE EAST
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OR THE FIGURES FOR EASTERN FORCES TABLED BY THE WEST AT THE OUTSET OF THE TALKS IS CONTRADICTED BY EASTERN PLENARY STATEMENTS AT THE TIME.

17) THE OFFICIAL DATA PRESENTED BY THE EAST IN JUNE 1976 DEMONSTRATE THE GROUNDLESSNESS OF WESTERN CLAIMS OF EASTERN PREPONDERANCE AND CONFIRM THE EXISTENCE OF APPROXIMATE EQUALITY OF THE FORCES OF THE TWO SIDES IN THE AREA.

18) IF THE WEST REALLY WISHED TO SECURE AN OUTCOME OF APPROXIMATE EQUALITY BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES, IT SHOULD ACCEPT THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUAL PERCENTAGE REDUCTIONS.

19) IF THE WEST DOUBTS THE ACCURACY OF EASTERN FIGURES, IT SHOULD SUPPORT THOSE DOUBTS WITH FACTS RATHER THAN PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS AND UNILATERAL ESTIMATES.

20) THE CONTINUATION OF THE ARMS RACE RETARDS EFFORTS TO SOLVE VARIOUS HUMAN PROBLEMS AND SETS A LIMIT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF POLITICAL DETENTE.

21) THE WEST SHOULD ADOPT A REALISTIC AND CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH SO THAT THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS CAN ACHIEVE PROGRESS, THEREBY CONTRIBUTING TO THE

ENDING OF THE ARMS RACE AND THE STRENGTHENING OF
DETENTE.RESOR

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